

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 466

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Henry Hooker of
Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Henry Hooker; and

WHEREAS, Henry Hooker was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Nashville on April 14, 1933, Mr. Hooker was the son of the late civic leader Darthula Williamson June and the late John Jay Hooker, Sr., a prominent Nashville attorney; he was the brother of the late Alice Kirby Hooker "Teenie" Buchtel and the late John Jay Hooker, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, he was educated at Montgomery Bell Academy, The Choate School in Connecticut, and the Graham Eckes School in Florida, where he was valedictorian; he then attended Vanderbilt University, spending a year abroad as a student at Queens College in Oxford, England, and receiving his philosophy degree in 1954; and

WHEREAS, following two years of service to his country in the United States Army, Henry Hooker attended Tulane Law School, where he was a finalist at Moot Court Nationals, editor of the *Tulane Law Review*, and elected to the Order of the Coif; upon graduation, he and his wife moved to Nashville to raise their family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooker joined Hooker & Hooker law firm in Nashville in 1960; he worked closely with his brother from 1966 to 1976, serving as his brother's law partner, business partner, and campaign director in two state political races; the brothers were progressives who championed equal rights for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, active in many business ventures, Henry Hooker founded Hospital Corporation of America and DSI, Inc.; he was the founder and director of Lin Broadcasting Corp. and the founder and board chairman of Minnie Pearl Fried Chicken; and

WHEREAS, his career in the oil and gas business began in 1971, when he moved to New York as vice president of corporate development for Studebaker-Worthington, Inc.; he returned to Nashville in 1975 as board chairman and majority owner of Oil Recovery Corporation of America and served as a director of numerous corporations, including STP Corp. and Susquehanna Corp.; and

WHEREAS, a gifted athlete, Henry Hooker adored sociable sports and games, especially tennis and foxhunting; he was a member of the Vanderbilt tennis team and rowed for Queen's College at Oxford University, and he later constructed an indoor tennis court at his home, Hunting Hollow. He played tennis and rode on horseback into his seventies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooker relished the romance and thrills of foxhunting on horseback across Middle Tennessee pastures; he and his wife, Alice Ingram Hooker, were invited to join the Hillsboro Hounds foxhunting association when they returned to Nashville from New Orleans, and he was given his first hounds in 1963. He began a long career as master of foxhounds for the Hillsboro Hounds in 1975, and he worked tirelessly over five decades to see it flourish, eventually becoming a director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America; and

WHEREAS, a formidable writer on the subject of foxhunting, his sporting memoir, *Fox, Fin & Feather: Tales from the Field*, was published in 2002 by the prestigious Derrydale Press, and his essays appeared in many esteemed periodicals, including *The Chronicle of the Horse*; his poem, "The Gamest Fox," appeared in Fred Russell's sports column in the *Nashville Banner*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooker was the owner of numerous award-winning horses, including Terossain, who competed in The Grand National Steeplechase in Liverpool, England, and Spin the Top, who won many Steeplechase races, including the Frost Brush Race at the Iroquois; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Hooker envisioned transforming Nashville Iroquois Steeplechase into an updated and competitive premier event to benefit Vanderbilt Children's

Hospital, now the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt; through his work as secretary of the Volunteer State Horsemen's Association, which organized the Steeplechase, and her work as chair of the children's hospital board, the couple brought the two organizations together, rendering the hospital the beneficiary of the Steeplechase's largess; over the course of twenty-seven years, the event raised more than \$8 million for the hospital; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Hooker was recognized as a Nashvillian having the greatest impact on the city from 1965 to 1985 by *Nashville* magazine, and the 1985 Iroquois Steeplechase was dedicated to him; he and his wife were honored by the Friends of the Children's Hospital Committee with the establishment of the "Alice and Henry Hooker Endowment Fund," and in 2015, they were inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame for their dedication to the Steeplechase and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, devoted to education, Henry Hooker served on the boards of Fisk University, Montgomery Bell Academy, and The Ensworth School in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooker was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Henry Hooker enjoyed the loving companionship of Alice Ingram Hooker, his wife of sixty-one years, and was the proud father of Bradford Williamson Hooker, Timothy Ingram Hooker, and Lisa Hooker Campbell and the treasured grandfather of Henry Williamson Hooker II, Alexander Guy Hooker, Lily Marie Robertson, Alice Hooker Campbell, Eileen Campbell Hart, John Palmer Campbell IV, Charles Ingram Hooker, and Heather Louise Hooker; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his uncle, Henry Bradford Williamson III, and numerous beloved nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Henry Hooker leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Henry Hooker, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Henry Hooker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.